(vi) Providing facilities for upward mobility.

(vii) Making available vocational education after Class VIII.

(viii) Provision for multi skill training to enhance employability.

(ix) Curriculum design to be on multi entry and multi exit pattern.

(x) Provision for lateral entry and vertical mobility to advanced levels of competencies.

(e) and (f) 79 vocational and skill based courses are being offered at the senior secondary level by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Several similar courses are offered in different States. Whereas matching degree level courses are not available for all these, there are more than 300 Career oriented courses offered at the undergraduate degree level under the auspices of UGC. The existing combination of subjects available at Senior Secondary level under the mainstream as well as vocational education gives choice to the students to opt for any combination of subjects in either stream. Some State Governments have introduced flexible courses/ curriculum to enable the students of vocational stream to go for higher studies in various disciplines including engineering, medicine etc.

Suicide of students

†1967. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children who committed suicide in various parts of the country after the results of C.B.S.E. examinations;

(b) whether Government would take any steps to remove their depression;

(c) whether it is also a fact that not only weak students but also brilliant students have committed suicide; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to recruit consultants/advisors in the schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Information regarding the number of children,who committed suicide after the results

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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of C.B.S.E. examinations is not maintained by the Government. To reduce examination-related stress among the students, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken the following measures:

i) Launching of 'Helpine' before the commencement of examination and also before the declaration of results.

ii) 15 minutes of additional time to students for reading the question paper before they begin to write the answers.

iii) Restructuring the question papers in such a manner that in question paper of 3 hours, student can finish it comfortably within 2 hours and 30 minutes.

iv) Smplification of question papers in some of the important subjects to provide more internal choices of questions and also to reduce the number of questions to make the students comfortable in respect of time and speed.

v) Proper weightage to internal school assessment based on project work and assignments in important subjects like Mathematics, Social Science and Science & Technology.

vi) Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarize teachers and students with the nature of questions and question papers.

vii) Providing facility of compartment examination in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.

viii) Providing three chances of compartment examination for classes X and XII.

ix) Allowing candidates to appear in the sixth failing subject in the compartment examination to be held in July/August of the same year.

CBSE runs tele-counselling facility, where counselling is offered to students in need on voluntary basis by educationists, psychologists, psychiatrists and senior Principals of schools,before and during the examination and also after the declaration of results.